

~~SECRET~~

9 February 1950

"1. It is the opinion of the JAEIC that considerable counter espionage information is and has been available in the files of the FBI and elsewhere which would have been and probably still is of considerable value to the JAEIC in making its estimates of the status of the U.S.S.R. atomic energy program. Some of this information has become available through the investigations conducted by the House Committee on Un-American Activities and the Canadian Royal Commission. However, essentially all information that has become available is of a peripheral nature, incomplete, and of relatively little value because of the length of time which has elapsed since the incidents occurred. The Nuclear Energy Division of OSI made a request for specific information to the Director of the FBI on 21 September 1949. While some information was furnished in answer to this request, it was only of slight value.

"2. More specifically, if the JAEIC had known of the implications of the Fuchs case in June 1949 at the time when the July estimate was being written, the estimate of the time by which the Soviets could have obtained their first bomb would have been appreciably advanced, as no allowance was made in making that estimate for successful espionage on details of bomb design and construction. Of course, the JAEIC does not know how long Fuchs has been under investigation, but the fact still remains that the JAEIC was not informed until after the man's arrest.

"3. If the pattern set forth above is followed, it seems obvious that much counter espionage information will not be made available. The only real assurance we have of getting the information at present seems to be as a result of the investigations of a Congressional Committee or the arrest of the offenders in isolated instances. This is very unsatisfactory from the standpoint of time, as the information is so old by the time we get it that it is of little value.

"4. The JAEIC desires to point out to the SIC this possibly large area of information which is being denied us. Furthermore, in view of the paucity of information from other sources, the elimination of this deficiency is urgently necessary if the JAEIC is to perform its duties adequately."

~~SECRET~~